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TWO MEN SENTENCED FOR BRUTAL MURDER ON GILA RIVER RESERVATION

PHOENIX – Cecil Pino, 30, of Coolidge, Ariz. was sentenced on June 22 to 262 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Frederick Martone. Shannon Lewis, 21, of Sells, Ariz., was sentenced on the same date to 210 months prison by Judge Martone. Pino and Lewis each pleaded guilty earlier this year to the 2nd Degree Murder of a man from the Gila River Indian Reservation.

On September 18, 2006 in the Blackwater District of the Gila River Indian Reservation, Pino and Lewis acted together when they entered a home in which the victim was visiting. For an unknown reason, Shannon Lewis repeatedly stabbed the victim with a butcher knife. Cecil Pino repeatedly beat the victim with a mason's hammer. The victim died as a result of the beating, having suffered 16 stab wounds and 14 blunt force trauma injuries. The investigation revealed that the beating may have been the result of a disagreement regarding drugs.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Sharon K. Sexton, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-860-PHX-FJM RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-154(Pino & Lewis)